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Third Committee
Agenda item 67 (b)
Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Belarus and Uzbekistan: draft resolution

Promotion of equitable and mutually respectful dialogue on human rights

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[2] the International Covenants on Human Rights[3] and other relevant human rights instruments,

Reaffirming that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and that the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind,

Stressing the importance of developing friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and achieving international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all through international cooperation,

Emphasizing the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter, to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind of race, colour, sex, language or religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 entitled "Human Rights Council", in particular the decision of the Assembly that the Human Rights Council should undertake a universal periodic review, in a manner

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.
[3] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

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that ensures universality of coverage and equal treatment with respect to all States, and the decision of the Human Rights Council[4] on the establishment of an intersessional open-ended intergovernmental working group to develop the modalities of the universal periodic review mechanism, based on an interactive dialogue as well as on objective and reliable information,

Recalling that the General Assembly shall make recommendations for the purpose of promoting international cooperation in the economic, social, cultural, educational and health fields, and of assisting in the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recognizing that politically motivated and biased country-specific resolutions on the situation of human rights severely undermine the principles of objectivity and non-selectivity in the consideration of human rights issues and are counterproductive to the cause of promoting human rights,

1. *Urges* Member States to further strengthen international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights in order to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding among civilizations, cultures and religions;

2. *Calls upon* Member States to base their approaches towards development of international dialogue on human rights on the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[2] and other relevant international human rights instruments and to refrain from approaches that are inconsistent with that international framework;

3. *Reaffirms* that the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as a legitimate concern of the world community, and the development of international dialogue on human rights should be guided by the principles of universality, non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity and should not be used for political purposes;

4. *Stresses* the need to avoid politically motivated and biased country-specific resolutions on the situation of human rights, confrontational approaches, exploitation of human rights for political purposes, selective targeting of individual countries for extraneous considerations and double standards in the work of the United Nations on human rights issues;

5. *Affirms* that respect for political, economic and cultural diversity for all contributes to the development of stable and friendly relations among countries and equitable and mutually respectful international dialogue on human rights;

6. *Stresses* the continuing need for unbiased and objective information on the situation of human rights in all countries and the need to present this information in an impartial manner, including through the reports of the special rapporteurs and representatives, independent experts and working groups;

7. *Decides* to consider this matter at its sixty-second session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

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[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/61/53), part one, chap. III.B, decision 1/103.

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Albania, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Moldova (Republic of), Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United Republic of Tanzania: revised draft resolution

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/127 of 16 December 1977 and its subsequent resolutions concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/51 of 9 March 1993[1] and its subsequent resolutions in this regard,

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1993/23 and Corr.2, 4 and 5), chap. II, sect. A.

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Bearing in mind the relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights concerning advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights, including its most recent on that subject, resolution 2004/81 of 21 April 2004,[2]

Bearing in mind also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[3] which reiterates, inter alia, the need to consider the possibility of establishing regional and subregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights where they do not already exist,

Recalling that the World Conference recommended that more resources should be made available for the strengthening of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights under the programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

Reaffirming that regional arrangements play an important role in promoting and protecting human rights and should reinforce universal human rights standards, as contained in international human rights instruments,

Welcoming the fact that the Office of the High Commissioner has been systematically pursuing a regional and subregional approach through a variety of complementary means and methods, in order to maximize the impact of the activities of the United Nations at the national level, and that the Office intends to establish new regional offices,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

2. *Welcomes* the continuing cooperation and assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the further strengthening of the existing regional arrangements and regional machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular through technical cooperation aimed at national capacity-building, public information and education, with a view to exchanging information and experience in the field of human rights;

3. *Also welcomes*, in that respect, the close cooperation of the Office of the High Commissioner in the organization of regional and subregional training courses and workshops in the field of human rights, high-level governmental expert meetings and regional conferences of national human rights institutions, aimed at creating greater understanding in the regions of issues concerning the promotion and protection of human rights, improving procedures and examining the various systems for the promotion and protection of universally accepted human rights standards and identifying obstacles to ratification of the principal international human rights treaties and strategies to overcome them;

4. *Recognizes*, therefore, that progress in promoting and protecting all human rights depends primarily on efforts made at the national and local levels, and that the regional approach should imply intensive cooperation and coordination with all partners involved, while bearing in mind the importance of international cooperation;

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[2] Ibid., *2004, Supplement No. 3* (E/2004/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[3] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[4] A/61/513.

5. *Stresses* the importance of the programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights, renews its appeal to all Governments to consider making use of the possibilities offered by the United Nations under the programme of organizing information or training courses at the national level for government personnel on the application of international human rights standards and the experience of relevant international bodies, and notes with satisfaction, in that respect, the establishment of technical cooperation projects with Governments of all regions;

6. *Welcomes* the growing exchanges between the United Nations and the United Nations human rights treaty bodies, on the one hand, and regional organizations and institutions, such as the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, the Council of Europe, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the International Organization of la Francophonie, the League of Arab States, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other regional institutions, on the other;

7. *Also welcomes* the placement by the Office of the High Commissioner of regional representatives in subregions and in regional commissions, in particular the deployment to Bishkek of a regional representative for Central Asia;

8. *Further welcomes* the progress achieved in the establishment of regional and subregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights, and, in this regard, notes with interest:

(a) The increasing cooperation between the Office of the High Commissioner and African organizations and suborganizations, in particular the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Economic Community of West African States and the Southern African Development Community;

(b) The support provided by the Office of the High Commissioner to the African Union for the strengthening of the promotion and protection of human rights in Africa, and welcomes in this regard the establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights;

(c) The increased, valuable sharing of concrete national experiences at the thirteenth Workshop on Regional Cooperation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region, held in Beijing in 2005, regarding the implementation of the Regional Framework for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region, which contributes to the enhancement of the promotion and protection of human rights in the region, and welcomes in this regard the establishment of an office of the High Commissioner for the Pacific region in Suva and the steps undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to set up a human rights training and documentation centre for South-West Asia and the Arab region, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/153 of 16 December 2005;

(d) The ongoing consultations aimed at the possible establishment of regional human rights arrangements held in the context of the Framework among Governments with the support and advice of national human rights institutions and civil society organizations of the Asia-Pacific region;

(e) Activities undertaken within the framework of the regional project of the Office of the High Commissioner for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Latin American and Caribbean region and the strengthening of the cooperation between the Office of the High Commissioner, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Organization of American States;

(f) Activities undertaken within the framework of cooperation between the Office of the High Commissioner and the League of Arab States;

(g) The continued cooperation towards the realization of universal standards between the Office of the High Commissioner and regional organizations in Europe and Central Asia, namely the Council of Europe, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, in particular for activities at the country level;

9. *Invites* States in areas in which regional arrangements in the field of human rights do not yet exist to consider, with the support and advice of national human rights institutions and civil society organizations, concluding agreements with a view to establishing, within their respective regions, suitable regional machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen exchanges between the United Nations and regional intergovernmental organizations dealing with human rights and to make available adequate resources from within the regular budget of technical cooperation to the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner to promote regional arrangements;

11. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to pay special attention to the most appropriate ways of assisting countries of the various regions, at their request, under the programme of technical cooperation and to make, where necessary, relevant recommendations, and in this regard welcomes the decision of the Office to strengthen national protection systems in accordance with action 2 of the reform programme of the Secretary-General;[5]

12. *Invites* the Secretary-General to provide, in the report that he will submit to the Human Rights Council at its fourth session, information on progress made since the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[7] on reinforcing the exchange of information and extending collaboration between the organs of the United Nations dealing with human rights and regional organizations in the field of the promotion and protection of human rights;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report on the state of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights, formulating concrete proposals and recommendations on ways and means to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements in the field of human rights, and to include therein the results of action taken in pursuance of the present resolution;

14. *Decides* to consider the question further at its sixty-third session.

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[5] See A/57/387 and Corr.1.